## PRESS RELEASE

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## CALTRANS AND CHP WARN MOTORISTS OF DOUBLE FINE ZONES AND DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

**SAN BERNARDINO** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 8 and the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Inland Division, is alerting motorists that speed limits have been reduced to 55 miles per hour in several construction zones on state highways, most recently the State Route 91 HOV Project in Riverside. Other 55 mile per hour construction zones include the Interstate 215 (I-215) Bi-County project between Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and the Interstate 15 (I-15) Paving project through Ontario and Rancho Cucamonga.

Construction projects are in full swing during drier weather on all Inland Empire roadways; and our state highway system is no exception. Caltrans District 8 currently has approximately 75 construction projects underway. This does not include Caltrans maintenance work or oversight projects, which brings that number to well over 100 construction zones that you may drive through day and night. Motorists are being warned that citations received within the above-mentioned construction zones may be subject to double fines.

Caltrans District 8 Director, Basem Muallem, informs motorists that "The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) nationwide statistics show that a highway worker is killed by a motor vehicle every 15 hours."

The summer months also bring vacation and outdoor activities, which requires the public to spend more time in their vehicles in addition to their daily commute. Concerns about drinking and driving are continuously on the radar for the CHP. Commander Amanda Snowden with the CHP Inland Division (Riverside Office) states, "We will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to educate the public on the dangers of drinking and driving. I encourage those who choose to drink, to please designate a sober driver."

Motorists are urged to take a moment to plan their trip before they get behind the wheel. Be sober and alert, and have plenty of patience before you get on the road. Many traffic resources are available at www.caltrans8.info. Remember to "move over or slow down" for highway workers, law enforcement, and emergency responders and never drink and drive.







